
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Kevin Eubanks Named All Star Firefighter During California's Wildfire Awareness Week

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the Ventura County Fire Department officially will celebrate Wildfire Awareness Week on Wednesday, May 10 with the help of musician Kevin Eubanks.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed a [proclamation](#) officially recognizing May 7-13, 2006 as "Wildfire Awareness Week" throughout California.

To highlight this important week, CDF is awarding Kevin Eubanks the title of All Star Firefighter at an event in the Ventura County community of Bell Canyon on Wednesday, May 10.

Eubanks, the bandleader and guitarist on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," became a public advocate for firefighters and public safety last fall after the Topanga Fire scorched more than 25,000 acres in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Despite its size and proximity to homes, only three residences were lost in the fire due to the hard work of fire crews from throughout the state. Ventura County is recognized by CDF as a model for fire prevention thanks to its successful planning and fire hazard reduction programs.

Fire prevention is crucial to fire safety. The January 2005 change to Public Resources Code 4291 requires that the defensible space around structures be a minimum of 100 feet. When property owners remove unnecessary vegetation its save lives, property and the environment. CDF is initiating its "Why 100 feet?" campaign during Wildfire Awareness Week to inform the public about the importance of this requirement.

Specific information about Wildfire Awareness Week and defensible Space can be found by contacting your local CDF office, fire department, or Fire Safe Council, or by visiting www.fire.ca.gov.

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